

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled):

Claim 14 (New): A method for suppressing mold formation on a surface comprising:  
applying to the surface to be protected from mold, a dispersion comprising:  
a dispersant and  
hydrophobic particles having  
a mean particle diameter ranging from 0.005 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  
an irregular fine structure ranging from 1 nm to 1,000nm,  
wherein elevations on the particles have an aspect ratio greater  
than 1; and  
removing the dispersant.

Claim 15 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion is applied to the  
surface of a building material.

Claim 16 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion is applied to a  
stone, concrete or plaster surface.

Claim 17 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion is applied to the  
surface of a sandwich-type plaster board, joints, paper-based wall papers, or mineral paint.

Claim 18 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion is applied to a plastic surface.

Claim 19 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion is applied by spraying it on the surface.

Claim 20 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersant is removed by evaporation or volatilization.

Claim 21 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion comprises from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based on the weight of the dispersant, of the hydrophobic particles.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion comprises at least one type of hydrophobic particles selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina, titanium oxide, and zirconium oxide; or mixtures thereof.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion comprises hydrophobic particles that are silicic acid or pyrogenic silicic acid.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion comprises hydrophobic particles that are silicic acid or pyrogenic silicic acid that have been treated with at least one agent selected from the group consisting of fluoroalkylsilanes, alkylsilanes, perfluoroalkylsilanes, and alkyldisilazanes.

Claim 25 New): The method of claim 14, wherein said dispersion comprises at least one type of hydrophobic particles selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene homopolymer and polytetrafluoroethylene copolymers; or mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein the dispersant comprises ethanol, isopropanol, or a combination thereof.

Claim 27 (New): A composition which inhibits mold growth when applied to a surface, comprising:

from 0.1 to 10% by weight of hydrophobic particles having a mean particle diameter of from 0.005 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , an irregular fine structure ranging from 1 nm to 1,000nm, wherein elevations on the particles have an aspect ratio greater than 1;  
and  
an organic dispersant.

Claim 28 (New): The composition of claim 27, wherein the organic dispersant is an alcohol.

Claim 29 (New): The composition of claim 27, wherein the dispersant is ethanol, isopropanol, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 30 (New): The composition of claim 27, wherein said dispersion comprises at least one type of hydrophobic particles selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina, titanium oxide, and zirconium oxide; or mixtures thereof.

Claim 31 (New): The composition of claim 27, wherein said dispersion comprises hydrophobic particles that are silicic acid or pyrogenic silicic acid.

Claim 32 (New): The composition of claim 27, wherein said dispersion comprises hydrophobic particles that are silicic acid or pyrogenic silicic acid that have been treated with at least one agent selected from the group consisting of fluoroalkylsilanes, alkylsilanes, perfluoroalkylsilanes, and alkyldisilazanes.

Claim 33 (New): The composition of claim 27, wherein said dispersion comprises at least one type of hydrophobic particles selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene homopolymer and polytetrafluoroethylene copolymers; or mixtures thereof.

Claim 34 (New): The composition of claim 27, which does not contain a fungicide.

Claim 35 (New): A self-cleaning lotus-effect surface produced by applying the composition of claim 27 to a surface and removing the organic dispersant.

Claim 36 (New): The self-cleaning lotus-effect surface of claim 34, wherein said composition does not contain hydrophobic titanium oxide particles.